Degradation of Keolladeo Bird Sanctuary

999. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Keoladeo bird sanctuary at Bharatpur is undergoing gradual degradation on account of the pressure of population in the surrounding areas; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect hundreds of species of birds and plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, no such degradation, on account of the pressure of population in the surrounding areas is seen in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. The steps taken to protect plants and birds in the Keoladeo National Park are as follows:—

(i) Sufficient quantity of the water for the park is obtained from the State Irrigation Department every year.

(ii) Stone wall has been constructed around the Park to prevent encroachments and the illegal grazing.

(iii) Check posts equipped with wireless sets have been established in the Park.

(iv) Regular patrolling by Security guards is also done.

Lead Pollution

1000. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the study conducted by the George Fundation of Bangalore under Project Lead Free programme in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Vellore, has revealed that 26% of population, including 34% of children less than 12 years, had more than 10 Microgrammes per Decilitre (MG/DC) of lead in their blood;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the main source of lead pollution in India is petrol; and